

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05022 191113Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /065 W

-----112845 191157Z /43

R 190730Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7520

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR TS AG

SUBJECT: TAHAR BELKHODJA VISITS ALGERIA, JULY 16-22

1. TUNISIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR TAHAR BELKHODJA LEFT TUNIS JULY 16 FOR SIX-DAY VISIT TO ALGERIA AT INVITATION OF HIS COUNTERPART IN ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT. BELKHODJA DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF TRIP AS BEING TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO STATES, AND ADDED THAT TIMES ARE NOW PROPITIOUS FOR SUCH TO TAKE PLACE. BELKHODJA NOTED IN HIS AIRPORT DEPARTURE STATEMENT THAT VISIT TAKES ON A PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN VIEWLOF JULY 15 SIGNING OF ITALIAN-TUNISIAN AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF TRANS-TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN-ITALIAN GAS PIPELINE.

2. EMBASSY HAD BEEN TOLD EARLIER BY BELKHODJA STAFF MEMBER THAT OISIT IS A "WORKING TRIP" AND THAT IT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. DELEGATION SEEMTLOM CONFIRM THIS ASPECT OF TRIP. IT INCLUDES INTERIOR OFFICIALS ABDELKRIM MOUSSA, DIRECTOR OF POITICAL AFFAIRS, TAHAR BEN REJEB, DIRECTOR OF JURIDICAL AFFAIRS

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 05022 191113Z

(JUDICIARY POLICY AND BORDER CONTROL) AND ABDELHAMID EL MANAA, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL PROTECTION (CIVIL POLICE). AMOR ROUROU, PRESEDENT-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ETAP(TUNISIAN STATE PETROLEUM COMPANY) WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN DELEGATION, ALTHOUGH HIS NAME WAS NOT ON FIRST LIST ISSUED LATE LAST WEEK. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA, MOHMOUD MAAMOURI IS ALSO LISTED.

3. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT BELKHODJA'S VISIT IS THE FIRST
HIGH LEVEL TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN EXCHANGE SINCE GOS FONMIN

BOUTEFLIKA CAME TO TUNIS IN FEBRUARY. PAPERS OF JULY 17
ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SECRETARY GENERAL OF ALGERIAN NATIONAL
FARMERS UNION, AOULMI BELGACEM, WAS IN TUNIS VISITING HIS
TUNISIAN COUNTERPART MOHAMEND GHEDIRA, AND THAT GHEDIRA
HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT ALGERIA FOR NOVEMBER 26 FESTIVITIES
MARKING 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORMATION OF ALGERIAN FARMERS'
ORGANIZATION. POLITICAL DIRECTOR MOUSSA, WHO IS CLOSE TO
BELKHODHA AND IN POSITION TO KNOW, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS
LAST WEEK THAT TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS WERE INDEED
WARMING. THE CURRENT EXCHANGE OF VISITS SEEMS TO BE
REFLECTION OF THIS, AND OF FACT THAT NEW PIPELINE
AGREEMENT WITH ITALY CLEARLY INCREASES AREAS OF COMMON
INTEREST BETWEEN TUNIS AND ALGIERS. MEDIA REPORTED
THAT BELKHODJA ALSO CARRIED A WRITTEN MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT
BOUMEDIENE FROM PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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